

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM
PIMA COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL



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Arizona Corporation Commission

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DEC 10 2014



December 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

ORIGINAL

RE: Tucson Electric Power's 2014 Energy Efficiency Implementation Plan, E-01933A-13-0183

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

The Pima County Interfaith Council represents over 30 congregations and institutions in the Tucson area.

We recently requested that the Tucson Electric Power's (TEP) 2014 energy efficiency implementation plan be delayed for consideration until January 2015 for the reasons described below. We appreciate your consideration of this request and are grateful for the additional time you have provided to allow our organization to meet with TEP Management to address our concerns.

As you may know, our organization spent over two years voluntarily working to develop a Residential Energy Financing Program for inclusion within Tucson Electric Power's (TEP) energy efficiency portfolio. The goal of our efforts was to identify an **Arizona-based** lender that could provide private capital in tandem with ratepayer money to make it possible for low-income Tucsonans to implement energy efficiency improvements in their homes, while lowering the cost of energy efficiency programs for all ratepayers. As a result of our work – which included extensive door-to-door interviews of various lenders – we identified a **Tucson-based** lender willing to provide private capital at a **lower rate** than the rate proposed by the **out-of-state** lender recommended by TEP. (Consequently the program we helped to develop offered significant budget reductions over the original program proposed by TEP.)

Notably, we did this work completely voluntarily as part of our organization's commitment to strengthen Tucson's congregations, schools, and neighborhoods. This program would in no way financially benefit our organization.

Given the substantial amount of time we invested over a two-year period to help develop this program on behalf of the Tucson community, we were dismayed to learn recently that TEP withdrew this program from consideration in its 2014 energy efficiency plan. We were also disappointed that TEP never contacted us about this development.

While we understand that a Residential Energy Financing Program may no longer be feasible, we respectfully requested that the Commission delay its consideration of TEP's 2014 energy efficiency plan until January 2015 to allow us the opportunity to meet with TEP Management to discuss possible solutions that could be included within the 2014 energy efficiency implementation plan. Our concern is that if the 2014 plan is approved before

these discussions take place, then low-income Tucsonans will have to wait until TEP's next energy efficiency plan is considered — which could be another year or two.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for the additional time you have provided to allow our organization to meet with TEP Management. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with TEP and are optimistic that a reasonable solution will be identified in time for the January 2015 Open Meeting.

Thank you for your past support of energy- saving programs for Tucson families and businesses.

PCIC Green Economy Team Chairpersons,
Hank Krzysik, AIA, Our Mother of Sorrows
Alice Weekley, St. Francis UMC

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